

# Missouri

## FFA Today

September/October 2002

### Appetite for Agriculture

By Erica Coble



**A**re you interested in a career in food processing? Does the thought of managing a four star restaurant sound exciting? If so, a career in food science might just be for you.

When most people hear the word "agriculture" visions of livestock and acres of crops come to mind. However, the FFA is helping youth discover the diverse array of career opportunities that are available to them through agriculture.

FFA chapters across the state have broadened their curriculum to include courses such as food science, horticulture, ag business and sales and animal science. Food science has become a popular course in schools across Missouri. In Missouri alone, the number of FFA Chapters offering food science and technology courses increased from only 6% in 1994 to 23% in 2001.

The Kansas City East FFA Chapter is just one example of a non-traditional agriculture program that offers a unique variety of opportunities to its FFA members. The five-teacher program consists of well over 200 students that have the opportunity to enroll in agricultural education courses and join the FFA during their sophomore through senior years.

According to David Dwyer, advisor, first year students have the chance to explore a variety of course subjects including horticulture, greenhouse management, food science and animal science. If students chose to come back for a second year, they have the opportunity to specialize in their area of interest and then participate in an SAE internship their senior year.

A state of the art food science lab is available for students to learn about the importance of the food and

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#### Did You Know?

*The average Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP) income per student was \$2,277 in 2001.*

*The top 3 SAEP's in 2001 were **Beef, Horses & Agribusiness***

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# Highlights from Heather

**A**re there areas in your life about which are truly passionate? When you hear the National Anthem or say the Pledge of Allegiance, are you proud to be an American? Or, when you set foot on the football field or basketball court, do you give 110% in order to win the game? When you look out across 100 acres of farmland, are you proud of agriculture and what it does for you? Does listening or creating music truly move you?

We each have areas in our lives that are very important to us. These areas are part of us, and they make us who we are. Can you imagine a world where no individuals were exceptionally interesting or good in specific areas? What if Abraham Lincoln had not been passionate about living in a slave-free unified America? If Joe Montana did not truly care about the game of football, he probably wouldn't have played so hard to win the game. If music were not a part of Beethoven, would he have written such beautiful pieces? If teachers did not truly care about our future, would we be successful students?

As a young child, I wanted to be a fighter pilot for the Navy because Top Gun was my favorite movie. However, when I was young, I didn't know the areas in my life that were truly important to me. Now, I know that agriculture is what I am truly passionate about and that is why I choose to pursue a career in agriculture.

As we grow older, our teachers and parents and friends help us to realize who we are and who we want to be. Once we know these things, it is up to us to decide how to use the things that truly matter to us. FFA members are a very diverse group, but we all have one thing that matters to each one of us - success.

As FFA members, each one of you



Heather Shauck  
State President

has shown that you truly care about being successful and you have taken the first step toward that success by joining an organization that focuses on developing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success in its members.

How will you find success through FFA? Will you compete on a contest team that is really interesting to you? Will you improve your speaking and interviewing skills by competing in contests or running for offices? Or will you simply meet and make as many friends as you can through all of your activities?

You could improve your leadership skills by serving as an officer, committee chairman, or simply by setting an example as an exceptional FFA member and student. Or, maybe you want to work with your advisor to develop a new activity that you would really enjoy. The choice is yours. You are the one who can decide what path you will take to success.

Each one of you has special parts of your life, and you can use your experiences in FFA to develop your individual talents. Step up and get involved, because you will learn more about yourself and what you truly love with each activity and experience you encounter.

2002/2003

## State Officers

Area	Officer
6	<b>Heather Shauck - Pres.</b> Eldon FFA
1	<b>Austin Swafford - 1st V.P.</b> Savannah FFA
7	<b>Serena Ehlers - Secretary</b> El Dorado Springs FFA
	Vice Presidents
2	<b>Ashley Lyon</b> Norborne FFA
3	<b>Kacie Nelson</b> Macon FFA
4	<b>Lee Magruder</b> Clopton FFA
5	<b>David Swaters</b> Lakeland FFA
8	<b>Aaron Hampton</b> Hartville FFA
9	<b>Adam McGee</b> Purdy FFA
10	<b>Sarah Hodges</b> Salem FFA
11	<b>Sarah Loehr</b> St. Clair FFA
12	<b>Garret Rives</b> Woodland FFA
13	<b>Kim Robinson</b> Doniphan FFA
9	<b>Jamie Lile</b> Past President Strafford FFA

### State Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 751-3544

### Director: Terry Heiman District Supervisors:

Nancy Alford, Jim D. Bellis, Steve Brown, Jim Cassidy, & Lisa Evans

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## National Chapter Star Recognition

### 3 Star

- ◆ Aurora
- ◆ Carthage
- ◆ Union
- ◆ Eldon
- ◆ Troy

*24 Missouri FFA chapters will receive 2 Star recognition at the National FFA Convention next month in Louisville, Ky.*

## National FFA Proficiency Award Program Finalists

**James McNary** - Jasper  
Ag. Communications

**Samuel Bounds** - Worth Co.  
Ag. Mech. Design & Fabrication

**Chad Jellum** - Lex-La-Ray  
Diversified Crop Prod. Pl.

**Ronda Reed** - Licking  
Diversified Livestock Prod. Pl.

**Cindy Wilson** - Pleasant Hope  
Dairy Production - Entr.

**Crystal Hays** - McDonald Co.  
Dairy Production - Pl.

**Scott Hill** - Miller  
Equine Science - Pl.

**Alesa Raasch** - Norborne  
Fruit Production

**Jamie Bennett** - Cass Career  
Specialty Crop Production

**Kevin Rugen** - California  
Sm. Animal Prod. & Care Entr.

**Seth Seedorf** - Sarcoxie  
Turf Grass Management Entr.

## Mathews to Run for National Office

“FFA members have so much potential, and many times just need someone to help unlock that potential,” explains former state FFA officer Crystal Mathews. “I hope that I can do that through encouragement, inspiration and by being a positive role model.”

Mathews has her work cut out for her; she'll represent the state at the National FFA Convention October 30-November 2, 2002 in Louisville, Ky., as Missouri's National FFA Officer candidate.

A member of the Carthage FFA Chapter, Mathews grew up on a family beef cattle and fescue seed farm with three sisters and one brother. She notes, “I was blessed with great parents who made farming a full-time occupation.”

Having graduated from Carthage High School in 2001, Mathews was active in track and cross country,



**Crystal Mathews**

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# Promote AgriMissouri: It Pays

If your FFA Chapter is looking for a great way to raise some money and learn a little more about Missouri value-added agriculture, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has a contest just for you.

"Promoting AgriMissouri Products Pays Contest" is designed for just those purposes. And, it can help you identify some career opportunities in agriculture, as well. Through the contest, FFA chapters helping to market Missouri-made products will be awarded points for the number of Missouri companies represented, the number of Missouri products offered, the marketing technique used, and the dollar amount of sales generated from Missouri products. The top chapter will receive \$1,000 in prize money. Second place receives \$750 and third place earns \$500. In addition, \$50 will

be awarded to all chapters selling \$5,000 or more of Missouri products.

Here's how the contest works...

**Step 1:** Provide documentation for each item sold in your fundraiser, Missouri and non-Missouri. If your chapter has submitted a brochure that lists all items used, no other information is needed. Provide total sales on Missouri products only. Other



examples of documentation are copies of receipts, order forms, etc.

**Step 2:** This section provides your chapter the opportunity to earn more points by stressing the importance of marketing. Things to think about as you decide your marketing strategy: Why sell the items? Who is your target audience? What are your sales goals? Are you promoting Missouri agriculture?

**Step 3:** Bonus points will be awarded for choosing products from Missouri companies that exhibited at the 2001 Missouri State FFA Convention.

Applications for the Promoting AgriMissouri Products Pays Contest are due by January 31, 2003 and can be sent to Missouri Department of Agriculture, Market Development Division, AgriMissouri Program, P. O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

The Department of Agriculture has a number of resources available to assist your chapter in its fund-raising efforts. Visit their website at: [www.mda.state.mo.us/c2b.htm](http://www.mda.state.mo.us/c2b.htm). Or, call the AgriMissouri Program toll-free at 1-888-MO-BRAND for more information.

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## Appetite for Agriculture

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fiber industry. In the lab students learn about food safety, processing, food preservation, research and explore the variety of career options that are available to them in food science.

"We apply hands on methods to teach students about food science. Projects that we have done include making our own homemade soda pop, soap, barbecue sauces, yogurt and do some meat processing," explains Dwyer.

This hands on experience has also helped the chapter's success in Career Development Events. The chapter has won the Central District Dairy Foods contest for the past four out of 10 years.

Another component of the food

science curriculum includes the chance to obtain a food handling permit card. Second year students can take and pass a food-handling test and then receive a permit card. This permit card certifies them to work in the food industry at many different types of restaurants and food processing facilities.

"The Food Science courses that we offer give students the opportunity to get involved and get jobs in the food industry. Many of our students will become shift managers in restaurants and often go to college to pursue an agricultural related career. Food is a highly motivational industry to be involved in and there are a lot of opportunities," notes Dwyer.

Dwyer says that food science and horticulture are the two most popular areas of interest at Kansas City East. The students SAE projects consist mainly of placement jobs at grocery stores, hardware stores, labs at schools or area recreational attractions.

"Every student needs to understand the importance of the food and fiber industry and what it brings to our country. The purpose of Agricultural Education is to reach all student populations - rural and urban - and help them to become informed citizens. That is what we strive to do with our program," explains Dwyer.

For more information on an exciting career in food science or other agricultural areas, visit the National FFA Career Center at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) and see what kind of appetite you have for a career in food science.

# MFA

## 1/2 page ad



# I Hope You Dance

By David Swaters - Area 5 State V. P.

“And if you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance”.

Many of you may recognize that line from Leann Womack's song, “I Hope You Dance.” But, what exactly does the word “dance” mean? To me, it challenges us to take advantage of every opportunity given to you in life.

We've all had our share of “good” and “bad” dances. When I was a freshman, I ran for a chapter office. I didn't get it, but that didn't slow me down. I participated in several public speaking contests. I never got first. I attended Public Speaking Academy to further develop my public speaking skills.

Deanna Hines (who was then with the Department of Agriculture) came to my agriculture class. She informed

us about the opportunities in agriculture. She also informed us about the Missouri Agribusiness Academy. That day I set a goal to be one of the 30 students selected for the next academy. I reached that goal and it was a wonderful experience.

Still, I had a goal to be a chapter officer. It happened my sophomore year. I learned so much from my fellow officers and chapter members. Indeed, my time spent dedicated to chapter leadership was very rewarding.

When I was selected to run for an area office, I had tremendous fear of failure. My fellow chapter mem-

bers and my advisor helped me keep a positive attitude. I gathered up all

my courage, walked into the interview room and gave it my best.

In each instance, I seized the opportunity to dance - whether the outcome be good or bad. This year, each of you will

be given an opportunity. It might be participating in a contest team, running for an office, or being a positive role model to someone. Regardless of the opportunity facing you, don't

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## College of the Ozarks 1/6 page ad

### "Cut in Half"

During the past four years, I was often asked the question, “What has FFA done for you?” I have always had a tough time putting into words exactly how this organization has changed my life. To put it simply, FFA has “cut me in half.”

One of the most important factors in achieving lifelong happiness is to remember your roots. FFA has taught me to plant my feet firmly in the morals and beliefs of my family. It has taught me to have pride in being a country girl from the Midwest. It has instilled in me an appreciation for hard work and nature.

FFA has also shown me how to set goals. This organization has encouraged me to dream and had made me

realize anything that I set my mind to is a possibility. I was taught not to

be discouraged by or afraid of failure, but to learn and grow from it. I was told not to be displaced by negative people, but to be twice as positive and it would then equal out. FFA has taught me to let my heart dream, because the possibilities are endless.

All of these skills and bits of advice that I have been given not only apply to the FFA, but also to life in general. FFA has “cut me in half” by making sure my feet are firmly planted, while letting my heart dream and work towards any goal I may desire.

FFA members, I encourage you to let FFA “cut you in half.” When this happens, the opportunities are endless.



## I Hope You Dance

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give in to fear, but believe in yourself and press on. Win or lose, you will have danced.

Winston Churchill once said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." FFA members, there are so many opportunities available to you. Don't hold yourself back because you think failure is inevitable.

As the opportunities abound before you in this new school year, stand up and take the dance.



Visit us  
on the web

[www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/  
agricultural\\_ed\\_index.htm](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/agricultural_ed_index.htm)

## Chapter Chatter

### Northwest District - Union Star

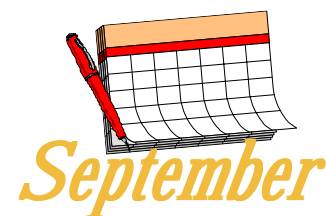
Union Star FFA members recently held their annual hog roast and labor auction. The event helps kick-off the new school year and serves as a fundraiser for the chapter. Students are also busy maintaining flower boxes they constructed for the community.

### Southwest District - Lockwood

FFA members in Lockwood are planning a P.A.L.S. program, which would pair FFA members with elementary students. FFA'ers would assist the students with school work and other projects.

### Central District -Boonslick

Ag Olympics competition will help members of the Boonslick FFA Chapter kick off the new school year. The event helps parents get acquainted with the school's FFA program. The chapter will also hold its Food for America program this fall for students in 1st through 8th grade.



- 23 FFA Day - Mid South Fair, Memphis, Tenn.
- 25 Red Carpet Day - CMSU, Warrensburg
- 28 SMSU/Farm Bureau Salute to Ag Football Game - Springfield

## October

- 1 MO Ag Prod. for 21st Century - Entry Deadline
- 3 FFA Day - MU Wurdack Farm - Cook Station
- 4-6 Ozark Fall Farm Fest - Springfield
- 7 Preview Mizzou - Columbia
- 15 NWMSU Fall Contests - Maryville
- 17 State Grassland Contest - Columbia area

cont'd

## FFA Calendar

- 24-11/3 American Royal - Kansas City
- 25 American Royal Leadership Seminar - Kansas City
- 30-11/2 National FFA Convention - Louisville, Ky.

## November

- 12 NE District Speaking Contests - South Shelby
- 12 SC District Speaking Contests - Rolla
- 13 Central District Speaking Contests - CMSU, Warrensburg
- 14 SE District Speaking Contests - Dexter
- 14 SW District Speaking Contests - SMSU, Spfd.
- 20 NW District Speaking Contests - Savannah

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### Northeast District - Paris

In its third year, Paris FFA members are working with the Mo. Dept. of Conservation to restore and landscape a public access. Students are also preparing for their annual fruit and turkey sales as the chapter's fundraiser.

### South Central District - Dora

FFA members in Dora recently worked with FFA chapters in Thayer, Willow Springs and West Plains to construct a new FFA building for the Heart of the Ozarks Fair in West Plains. Students did everything from construction to landscaping on the project.

### Southeast District - Fredericktown

Fredericktown FFA members have constructed a gazebo for its community garden. A BOAC (Building Our American Communities) grant helped complete the project. Members will also be assisting with the National Cub International Tractor Show in September.

## Mathews - Continued from Page C

cheerleading, student council, math league, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and also served her church and community through numerous other activities. Currently, she attends the University of Missouri in Columbia where she's majoring in agricultural education. At MU, Mathews is involved in Mizzou FFA, Collegiate CattleWomen, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and CAFNR Student Council. This past year she has also served as the National Beef Ambassador and Missouri Beef Queen.

After college, Mathews plans to continue working in agriculture through education, production and other service and leadership avenues.

Serving as a National FFA officer has been a goal of Mathews since she was a sophomore in high school,

but she says her motives for achieving that goal have changed somewhat. "I want to serve as a National Officer because I want to use everything that I have been given to make a difference in FFA members' lives. It will be an incredible opportunity to serve others and offer to members the best I can be for them."

Mathews goes on to say that National Officers represent all FFA members in relations with the public, media and industry supporters. "I will do my best to project a positive image for them," she says. "I believe that the best thing that I can do for the FFA and it's members is to be a servant leader, and do all that I can to make the organization better when I take off the blue corduroy than it was when I joined as a freshman."

As she sets her sight on that Na-

tional FFA office, Mathews says FFA has definitely prepared her for her future - wherever it may lead. "FFA is second to none when it comes to offering members leadership and communication skills that we learn by doing," she credits. "The teamwork and knowledge that I have gained through career development events will be beneficial in any job. The friendships that I have made are not only valuable to me, but hey have opened up an amazing network of connections."

Mathews concludes, "I have learned how to serve others and lead by example and that will help me to be a better citizen and role model in our society. Most importantly, the FFA has helped me discover who I am and how I can help others. And, I am a better person for it."

# Farm Credit Services

## 1/2 page ad